



# SURPRISE

P R O G R E S S

VOLUME 5 NO. 5 NOVEMBER 2005

Arizona's Secretary  
of State teams up  
with Surprise Fire  
to urge you to  
***use candles  
with care***

- **CITY COUNCIL**  
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Danny Arismendez,  
Vice Mayor  
Martha Bails  
Cliff Elkins  
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Antonio Segarra  
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**TDD**  
**623.875.4208**

## WINNER!

- 3CMA Silver Circle Award, 2005
- 3CMA Silver Circle Award, 2004
- 3CMA Silver Circle Award, 2003
- 3CMA Award of Excellence, 2002

- *Surprise Progress* is published by the City of Surprise Communications Department and distributed to all City residents via mail. We hope you like our format and content. We'd like to hear from you about Surprise Progress. Please call or e-mail us.

- **CITY OF SURPRISE**  
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Secretary of State Janice K. Brewer

# BUY in SURPRISE



**B**uy in Surprise between mid-November and the end of January and you have opportunities to win a Family Fun pack to a Spring Training game, a ride-along with the Police and Fire departments, or a variety of other prizes.

The City's annual "Buy in Surprise" promotion kicked off Nov. 14 with scores of local retailers honoring 10 percent off coupons on purchases. The coupons are available in the Nov. 16 and Dec. 7 editions of Surprise Today and Surprise Independent. Coupons will also be available at the City's website at [www.surpriseaz.com](http://www.surpriseaz.com) and in the Surprise City Store at Surprise City Hall, 12425 W. Bell Road.

This is the second year Surprise's Economic Development Department is sponsoring Buy in Surprise, a program aimed at encouraging residents to support local retailers and keep sales tax dollars at home.

Buy in Surprise works like this: Customers turn in receipts for every \$50 in purchases made at any Surprise business between Nov. 14 and Jan. 31, and drawings to determine the winners will be held Feb. 3. Gas and grocery purchases are excluded. Receipts may be turned in at the Surprise Senior Center, 15832 N. Hollyhock St., Surprise City Hall, 12425 W. Bell Road, and Surprise Community and Recreation Services office at 15930 N. Bullard Ave.

Winners must be 18-years-old, but do not have to be a resident of Surprise. City employees are not eligible.

**Happy shopping!**

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Jan Brewer shares her sad Christmas tale as a warning to others.

### 7 A Grip on Growth

Surprise is taking steps to slow residential growth.

### 9 Eye on Surprise

The first City-produced television show debuts in December.

### Correction:

The phone number for the Community Emergency Response Team was listed incorrectly in the September edition of Progress. The correct number is 623.815.5400. See page 14 for information on an upcoming volunteer training class.

# SHOP 24/7

@ SurpriseCityStore.com

The Surprise City Store, which offers a variety of merchandise unique to Surprise, is going on-line.

The Surprise City Store, currently located in the City's Communications Department, offers more than 60 items including T-shirts, golf shirts, caps, Fire Department merchandise, license plate holders, postcards, pens, mugs and more. Key chains, magnets and additional children's apparel will be added soon.

Store Manager Sharla Sanders said the on-line store will make it easier and more convenient for residents and out-of-state visitors to shop the store. "Right now, we're only open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, so people who work can't get down here. Now they can shop from home 24 hours a day," she said.

The Surprise City Store started six years ago as a marketing tool, but it only offered a T-shirt and a mug. It brought in more than \$24,000 last year with proceeds going into the City's general fund.

On-line shoppers may pay with a credit card, or a debit card with the Visa or MasterCard logo. The store may be accessed directly at SurpriseCityStore.com or through the City's website, surpriseaz.com.

Info: 623.583.4840



**CITY COUNCIL**  
6 p.m. on the second and  
fourth Thursday of the month  
Dec. 1, 22  
Northwest Regional Library  
16089 N. Bullard Ave.  
Info: 623.583.1098

**PLANNING &  
ZONING COMMISSION**  
6 p.m. on the first and third  
Tuesdays of the month  
Dec. 6, 20  
Northwest Regional Library  
16089 N. Bullard Ave.  
Info: 623.875.4332

City Council and Planning  
and Zoning Commission  
meetings are broadcast live on  
Surprise 11, available to Cox  
Cable subscribers in Surprise,  
Sun City and Sun City West.

Council meetings are  
rebroadcast several times  
during the week  
following the  
meeting. Broadcast  
times are:

8 a.m. Friday  
noon Saturday  
7 p.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Monday  
2 a.m. Wednesday



**ARTS & CULTURAL  
ADVISORY BOARD**

623.583.5899

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ADVISORY BOARD**

623.875.4273

**PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD**

623.266.4507

**REVITALIZATION  
ADVISORY BOARD**

623.815.5495

**TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE**

623.875.4246

**DISABILITY ADVISORY  
COMMISSION**

623.875.4350



# Candle

# Fire

**Christmas Eve 1999 is one holiday Secretary of State Janice K. Brewer will never forget.** It began predictably enough, according to her traditional Norwegian upbringing: "We have dinner, go to church, come home and open gifts," she said. Normally, the couple and their three sons stop to look at Christmas lights on the way home but, that year, her husband suggested they head straight home since it was later than usual.

They pulled into the garage; their oldest son was the first inside. **"He came out yelling, 'The house is on fire' and I couldn't believe it; I couldn't realize what he was saying,"** she said.

The culprit? A candle in the dining table centerpiece.

**Brewer had blown out the candles,** checked the doors and made sure the kitten was inside before rushing off to church. **But today's candles, she has learned, can easily reignite.** Hers had burned down and ignited the centerpiece; then the upholstered chairs and drapes. The fire was so hot, Brewer said, it shattered the inch-thick glass dining table,

**"It was a lesson learned the hard way, but one that was learned well."**

melted the centerpiece's ornaments into the tile floor, and exploded a large rear window. Although the fire was contained to the dining room, smoke damage

was heavy throughout the 5,000-square-foot Glendale home. **"If we had stopped to see the lights like we traditionally do, the house would have burned down.** There's no doubt about it," she said.

As it was, the Brewer family used trash bags to haul presents to a nearby hotel, where they ate chips, drank soda and celebrated as best they could. **A downtown hotel ended up being home for three months** while the house was repaired and belongings were restored. "Everything gets removed from the house and cleaned, from lipstick in your drawer to your vacuum cleaner," she said, and being out of the house and without so many items, left her feeling "discombobulated."

**The bill was about \$60,000,** and there was no major structural damage. Thankfully, they were well-insured, but Brewer lost items that can never be replaced, like an antique plate that belonged to her grandmother. It was a family heirloom proudly displayed on the dining room wall. "It was part of my life, and now it's gone," she said.

Brewer doesn't burn candles in her bathroom anymore, and she won't leave the room if a candle is burning. She shudders at the "cavalier" way people burn candles on the floor, with animals swishing their tails, and children running around. "I'm very, very careful; very, very cautious. It was a lesson learned the hard way, but one that was learned well," she said.

**"You need to make sure candles are really, really out,"** she said, and **that means using water or a snuffer to extinguish them.** "Candles are beautiful and they're wonderful and they're part of our celebration, but we certainly have to remember that they're dangerous."

## CANDLE EXTINGUISHING TIPS

Linda Kmetz, Surprise Fire Departments Public Education Coordinator, recommends buying candles in a glass jar, then placing them on a coffee cup warmer to release the fragrance without the flame. But, if you must "light up," here's how to safely extinguish candles.

- Use a long-handled candle snuffer, available at card and gift stores. This is the best way.
- Wet the wick, or use a non-flammable object to gently push the wick over into the melted wax.
- Blowing is not the best way to extinguish the flame as it can cause wax spatter and create smoke. If you choose to blow anyway, place your hand a safe distance behind the candle and use a soft, direct breath.

Whichever method you choose, don't leave the room until the wick stops glowing. And, it's best to discontinue burning a candle before it comes too close to the holder or container: About 2 inches for a free-standing candle or about 1/2-inch if it is in a container.

"With the increase in candle sales, we've seen an increase in home fires, and Mrs. Brewer's story just highlights that fact. As the Surprise Fire Department we can't stress enough: Please use candles with care."

*~ Kevin Pool, Assistant Fire Chief*

## FIRE STATION UPDATE

The Surprise Fire Department will dedicate a new fire station in January, get rolling on two more in 2006, and remodel an existing station.

**Fire Station 301**, located just behind Surprise City Hall, is **a replacement for the City's first fire station** on Hollyhock Street in Surprise's Original Townsite. Firefighters are expected to move into the four-bay, red-brick building in December, with a grand opening celebration scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14.

**Fire Station 302**, located at Reems Road and Mountain View Boulevard, will undergo a remodel in 2006. The two-bay station, built in 1998 when Del Webb Corporation, opened Sun City Grand, will be expanded to add additional support space. Four smaller dorm rooms will be converted to three larger rooms; driveway will be replaced and the front entrance enclosed.

**Sun City Grand** will get a new two-bay station on the southwest corner of Clearview Boulevard and Papago Drive. **Station 305** is expected to open in the summer of 2007.

Later that year, **Fire Station 306** will open on the northeast corner of Greenway Road and Parkview Place. With four-and-a-half bays, the station will reduce response times to the Surprise Recreation Campus and homes in the southern portion of Surprise.

**Station 304** is fully staffed, but firefighters are currently housed in a temporary, modular building. Construction of a permanent station on 163rd Avenue, east of Grand Avenue, is tentatively scheduled for 2008.

Home fires caused by candles have tripled during the past decade, and December averages almost twice the number of candle fires as any other month.





# Janice K. Brewer

## Arizona Secretary of State

**Held position since:** Jan. 6, 2003

**Best part of the job:** Interacting with people.

**Little known fact about her job:** Brewer is acting governor when the governor is out of state, and is next in line to take office should something happen to Gov. Janet Napolitano.

**Political affiliation:** Republican

**Hometown:** Hollywood, CA.

**Family:** Married 40 years to Dr. John Brewer; three sons. "It was love at first sight," said Brewer, who met her husband at a college party while she was dating someone else. "I thought he was the best thing that every happened to me – and he was."

**Favorite restaurant:** Durant's, 2611 N. Central Ave., because of the history. "The food is great too, but it's such an institution in Arizona."

**Currently reading:** "The Saga of Jack Durant," a controversial figure in Arizona's history and founder of Durant's.

**Philosophy of Life:** The Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Brewer hands out "Golden Rule" awards and is developing a Golden Rule license plate for the State of Arizona.

**Top three places new residents should see:** The Grand Canyon, Arizona State Capitol Museum (1700 W. Washington) and one of Arizona's mining communities such as Bisbee.

**Talk with Jan Brewer for five minutes and one thing becomes evident:** She LOVES Arizona.

Brewer, who in 1970 traded the glamour of tinsel town for adventure in Arizona with her newlywed husband, crisscrosses the state on a weekly basis now, choosing to drive herself to appointments.

**She's seen just about all of the 48th state, but can't pick a favorite spot.** "I love Organ Pipe (National Monument). It's spectacular in the spring; Sedona; Williams, there's nothing like riding the train to the Grand Canyon at Christmas time; the lakes and recreational

facilities; Bisbee; the Navajo Reservation; Window Rock is just spectacular. How can you choose? There's truly something for everybody in Arizona," said Brewer, barely taking a breath.

Second, Brewer LOVES her job; and she spends a good portion of it educating residents on WHAT she does. That's another mouthful: In addition to her role as lieutenant governor, she serves as **the chief elections officer** of the state, registers all lobbyists and charitable organizations, commissions all

notary publics, files secured financial transactions under the Uniform Commercial Code, and is the official custodian of the great seal of Arizona.

"I'm the dog and pony show for a lot of groups. I try to get people to realize their vote does count and that we're making sure that it does by ensuring the integrity of it. I take great pride in the fact that we're doing a good job doing that," she said flashing her signature smile.

**Brewer is proud of leading the largest election reform in Arizona's history.** Within 60 days of taking office, she had satisfied federal election reform requirements by submitting a state plan under the Preliminary Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Arizona was only the second state to do so.

**Brewer began her political career as a state representative in 1983.** District lines had been redrawn and her husband, who had become politically active as a lobbyist, was looking for a candidate to run in their district. "He didn't ask me," she said, feigning insult. So, she volunteered. "I asked him, 'Will you support me – financially – so I won't have to ask anyone for money?'" and he agreed."

She still remembers the overwhelming feelings of fear and doubt standing on the floor of the legislature as she took the oath of office. "I was wondering if I could do the job," said the mother of three. "I just worked as hard as I could."

Brewer served as a state representative until 1986, then as a **state senator from 1987-96** acting as majority whip from 1993-96. She spent another **six years on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors**, serving as chair for the last two years.

Knowing some of the past Secretaries of State and seeing the role they played as goodwill ambassadors for Arizona attracted Brewer to the job, although she knew it was an uphill battle for a Republican in a Democrat-run administration.

Brewer, who has a **life-size cardboard cut-out of President George W. Bush in a corner of her office** and pictures of the two of them on her credenza, said she did what she does best: Talk to people. "You get out and talk about the issues and shake hands and people respond," said Brewer, who landed more votes than the governor in the 2002 election.

Is a run for governor next? Brewer admits people have broached the subject with her, but she would have to resign her current position to run. Pausing for a moment, she responds, **"I have no desire to be governor. I'm just pleased as punch to be Secretary of State."**

**"I have no desire to be governor. I'm just pleased as punch to be Secretary of State."**

# getting a grip on growth



**LaTonya Finch**  
Community  
Development  
Director

**S**urprise, poised to hit an all-time high on the number of single-family residential building permits issued this year, is attempting to slow growth.

Starting Dec. 1, Surprise's Community Development Department is limiting the number of permits issued in the City's fastest growing area to 500 per month. "We're concerned that infrastructure is not keeping up with vertical construction," said Director LaTonya Finch. "And we're not just talking about water, sewer and utilities. We're talking about community infrastructure, roadways and schools - quality of life issues. We're looking for balance."

Finch said 500-limit was determined by evaluating one piece of the infrastructure pie: Sewer capacity. "We used that as the defining criteria," she said.

Surprise is on track to issue more than 7,200 single-family permits this year – nearly 1,000 more than last year and twice the number issued three years ago. The limit is indefinite and affects Special Planning Area One, located

roughly south of Bell and west of Grand Avenue.

Surprise issued 854 permits in May, 750 in June, 513 in September, but only 306 in October as a result of hurricanes limiting available building materials. Finch said the slow-down will soften the impact of the new program on Surprise's 37 homebuilders.

"The goal is to put the program in place, but not significantly impact the ability of homebuilders to do business," she said. "By the time the market picks back up, they will have adapted to these new levels."

**We're concerned that infrastructure is not keeping up with vertical construction.**

Homebuilders are projecting the number of permits they will need through July. Finch, who said she has their support, doesn't foresee any problems considering homebuilders sometimes pull permits for an entire subdivision at once – before they are actually needed.

This is the first time a slow-down has been attempted in Surprise's 10 years on the fast-growth track. It's not a new idea, Finch said. Pinal County has a similar program.

Some residents called for a moratorium a few years ago, mainly to allow schools to catch up to the demand, but the idea didn't gain momentum. A moratorium legislatively restricts or stops growth for a specific time and reason. Surprise's program isn't nearly as rigid and leaves room for discretion, Finch said.

**Based on the number of single-family residential permits issued this year, Surprise is averaging nearly 20 homes and 56 new residents per day.**









*The Surprise11 van has been turning heads since it debuted in October at the Home and Garden Expo at Surprise Stadium. Usually driven by Video Production Specialist Don Myers, the van is used to transport equipment to video shoots and to promote the station.*

# prise

Economic Development Coordinator Landis Nordenberg will act as host for the show, introducing and guiding the viewer through the various segments. "I think our viewers will be comfortable with Landis," said Video Production Specialist Don Myers. "She has a broad-based knowledge of the City and can put programs and issues into perspective."

Plans are to spin-off half hour shows on Public Safety and Community and Recreation Services. "These departments have more than enough programs to feature," Myers said, "and I think it will include information our residents can really use."

## Landis Nordenberg

Economic Development Coordinator and host of Eye on Surprise

**Employee since:** 2000.

**Main job:** Working with state and regional agencies to attract retail, industrial and bio-tech businesses to Surprise.

**Best thing about the job:** It's different every day.

**Hometown:** Litchfield Park / Goodyear.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in small business; master's in business administration from Northern Arizona University.

**Family:** Engaged to be married in spring 2006 to New Zealander Kevin Elliott, whom she met on a trip to Australia.

**Hobbies:** Competing in triathlons and half-marathons (she gets up at 5 a.m. to swim, bike or run before work), hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, rock climbing and reading.

**Philosophy of Life:** Live each day like it's your last.

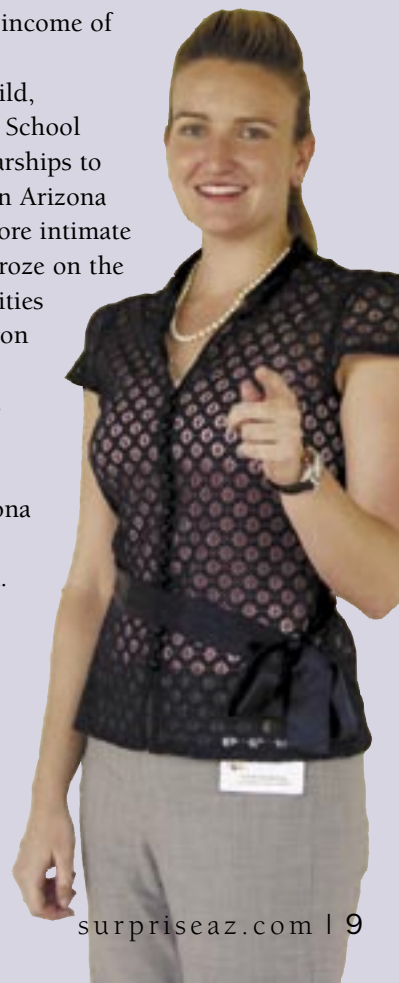
Energetic and athletic, Landis Nordenberg is always up for a new challenge. So when the opportunity came along to host Surprise11's first news magazine-style show, she jumped at the chance. "I can't wait to get out into the community and educate the community on the great things the City is doing," said Nordenberg, a life-long West Valley girl.

And, Nordenberg knows the City: She's been "selling" businesses on Surprise for the past five years, after an internship landed her a job with the Economic Development Department. An integral part of convincing Milgard Windows to build a manufacturing plant here, she can rattle off demographics, traffic counts and the disposable income of area residents without a second thought.

The 28-year-old native grew up as an only child, competing on club teams and at Agua Fria High School in tennis and swimming. Offered full-ride scholarships to the state's three universities, she picked Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff because of the smaller, more intimate campus. She gave up swimming when her hair froze on the way home from a 5 a.m. workout, but opportunities to run, mountain bike and hike the Grand Canyon only whetted her appetite for more adventure.

Nordenberg organized (her grandmother says 'instigated') trips to Europe with her classmates, and explored careers in law and politics by interning with a superior court justice and Arizona congressman. A summer spent teaching herself computer languages "x-ed out" that field as well. "I now know that I never want to sit in front of computer screen all day" she said.

But, a television screen might be a different story. Never mind that her only experience in front of a camera is a second grade appearance on The Wallace and Ladmo Show, a local children's sit-com that aired for 35 years. Is she nervous? "I think the proper answer is 'no,'" she said.



# Keep your **Eye** on **Surprise**

continued from Page 9

# Surprise TV

**Don Myers**  
Video Production Specialist

**A**t 15, Don Myers wasn't enamored with show biz when his dad drafted him as a camera operator in his newly formed video production business. "I couldn't see myself doing that," said the Phoenix native who, like every other kid he knew, wanted to be a police officer.

After graduation from Deer Valley High School, Myers earned his Firefighter II certification and went on the wild-land firefighting circuit. "It was great. I was gone for a month at a time camping," he said, "but at 21, I decided I would rather have a family."

He married and began pursuing a police career, landing a job as a detention officer. It wasn't enough money, so he returned to video production, helping his father film dozens of Valley high school graduations. "I've heard Pomp and Circumstance so many times I probably won't attend my children's graduations. I'll just watch the video."

But it was at a graduation shoot at the Sundome in Sun City West that something clicked. Only an hour from show time, nothing was working and the crew was "bouncing off the walls," Myers said. "Every time I grabbed something, it was fixed and I thought, 'I love this,' knowing I could find a problem and solve it."

An energetic guy with a ready smile and a radio voice, Myers quickly became an expert in the business, even crafting his own computer editing system. He branched out into medical training, marketing and sales videos. "I did one on

garage door maintenance. Now I know how to fix my garage door," he said. "And, I've done so many implant videos I actually think I could do one."

Myers, who settled in Surprise two years ago, loves the hometown feel. "Walking through the streets is like walking through a high school campus. You might not know everyone, but you have something in common. It's not like Phoenix or Glendale," said Myers, who believes part of his job as a communicator is to help maintain that sense of community.

For now, the 30-year-old is a one-man show with the exception of a couple of part-time camera operators. City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are the only original programs. Eye on Surprise and other news-magazine shows are in the works and, beyond that, new programs will depend on budget and staffing. Myers is certain of one thing though: "Surprise11 will be getting much better. I want everyone to stay tuned."

**Employee since:** December 2004

**Best part of the job:** Being able to create

**Hometown:** Phoenix

**Family:** Newly wed to Annie; two children

**Hobbies:** Video production and poetry writing; won third place in a national poetry contest as a fifth grader

**Favorites:**

**TV show:** Alias. "I like the suspense, intrigue and spy games. It's very well produced."

**Movie:** Braveheart. "It's a well-done piece from the acting, writing, directing, and staging to the crowd scenes - it looks like there were thousands, but it was only a handful of people."

**Goal for Surprise11:** Nothing but original programming. "I'd like you to wake up in the morning, turn on Channel 11 and know what's going on at the local and national level and what traffic is doing at Bell and Grand."

**Biggest challenge:** Finding the best ideas out of all the great ones.

**Philosophy of Life:** Character is defined by what you would do if you would never get caught.



# Surprise receives near-record rainfall

**S**urprise recorded 13.5 inches of rainfall this year at Dysart Road and Grand Avenue, making it **the second wettest season since 1983** when the Flood Control District of Maricopa County began keeping records at that location. In 1993, 14.7 inches of rainfall was recorded at the site; last year, 5.51 inches.

“Although Surprise received near record rainfall this year when compared to the last 10-20 years, this hardly means the drought is over,” said John Meyer, Surprise’s storm water compliance specialist. **“One above-average water year can’t erase nine dry ones.”** People should still work to conserve water.”

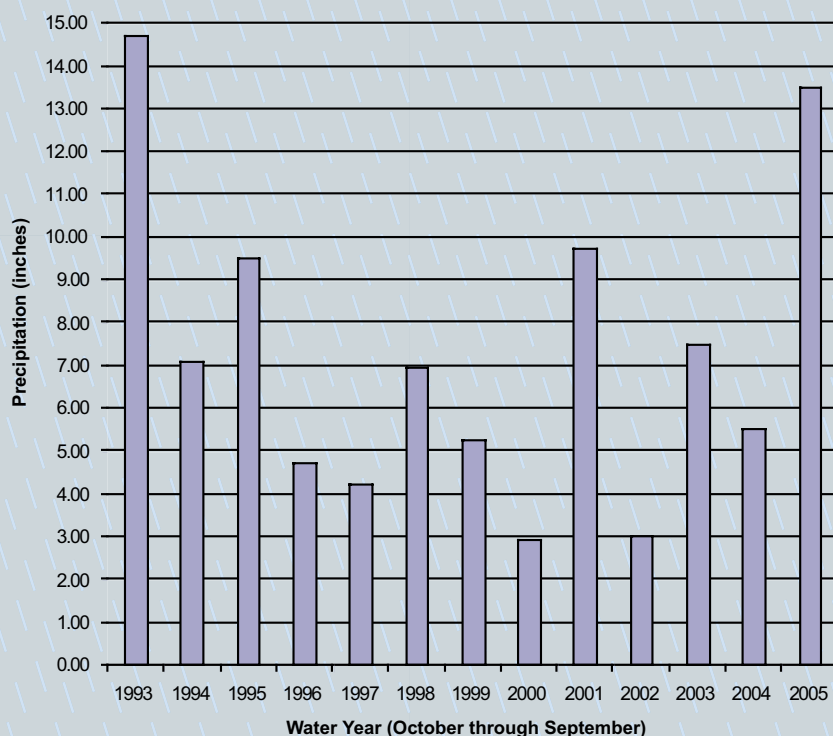
There are currently 12 rain gauges within the City’s Planning Area. Stations south of the Dove Valley Road alignment average 5 to 8 inches of rainfall annually; those to the north average between 9 and 11 inches. Rainfall years are measured from October through September.

**Surprise experiences three types of storms,** Meyer explained. Winter storms, which occur between October and May, originate in the northern Pacific Ocean and produce light to moderate rainfall extending over a large area. “These are good for deep soil penetration and groundwater recharge,” he said.

Summer (or tropical) storms, occur between June and October and originate from the Pacific Ocean south of Mexico. They typically include heavy localized rain cells within larger areas of light to moderate rainfall. Local storms may occur any time of the year, but are most common between July and September. Local storms are often accompanied by thunder, and produce record amounts of water in a short period of time resulting in flash flooding.

**To observe rainfall records nearest your home** visit the Flood Control District of Maricopa County website at <http://www.fcd.maricopa.gov/Services/ALERT/Rainfall.asp>.

**Precipitation Records - Dysart & Bell roads**



**Notes:**

Incomplete data reported for water year 1993.

**Example:**

Water Year 2005  
Begins: Oct. 1, 2004  
Ends: Sept. 30, 2005

# City NOTEBOOK

## F-16 FLIGHTS INCREASE TEMPORARILY

More F-16s than usual are zooming through the skies over Surprise, but the increase is only temporary. The fighters are taking off toward the north (Surprise) while nearby Luke Air Force Base installs approach lights on one of its runways. Construction is expected to be completed in March 2006.

Aircraft carrying live ordnance for combat training will continue to depart to the south in order to avoid more populated areas. **Info:** 623.856.5853, or [luke.af.mil](mailto:luke.af.mil)

## CLICK! CITY LAUNCHES FIRST E-NEWSLETTER

The Surprise Communications Department published its first e-newsletter, *Surprise Progress Plus*, in October. An electronic supplement to Surprise's award-winning resident newsletter, it will be published six times a year during the months that *Surprise Progress* is not published. It is e-mailed to a subscriber list, or may be viewed at [surpriseprogressplus.com](http://surpriseprogressplus.com). To sign up for *Surprise Progress Plus*, visit the homepage of the website, [surpriseaz.com](http://surpriseaz.com), click on "Notify Me" on the left side of the page and follow the instructions.

## WEBSITE OFFERS TIPS FOR TAMING 'WILD' NEIGHBORS

No one warned you about the "wild" neighbors when you moved in, but now there are coyotes eating out of the dog bowl, javelina munching on the cactus, bobcats drinking out of the pool, rats nesting in the garage, and a woodpecker knocking on the door. For more information on how to co-exist peacefully with wildlife, check out the newest section of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's website at [azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife](http://azgfd.gov/urbanwildlife).



## BULK TRASH PICKUP SCHEDULE

Bulk trash collections in the area of 199th / 219th / 239th Avenue areas are scheduled for Nov. 28-Dec. 9. **All bulk trash collections must be scheduled in advance** with the City's Public Works Department. For more information about bulk trash collections, fees and exclusions, or to schedule a pick-up, call the Public Works Department at 623.583.0947.

## CITY OFFICES CLOSE FOR HOLIDAYS

City Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving, and no City services will be provided. There will be no recycling collection that week.

Surprise will observe a Christmas holiday on Monday, Dec. 26, and a New Year's holiday on Monday, Jan. 2. Trash normally collected on Monday will be picked up Tuesday, and trash normally collected on Tuesday will be picked up on Wednesday both weeks. **Info:** 623.583.0947.

## TRASH/SEWER PRE-PAY APPEARS ON JANUARY BILL

City of Surprise sewer and trash customers who pre-pay annually for their service will see the charge on their January invoice from Arizona American Water. Arizona American Water handles billing for Surprise's water, sewer and trash service. For billing information, customers should call Arizona American at 1.800.383.0834, not the City of Surprise.







### APPLY NOW FOR NEXT HOA TRAINING ACADEMY

Applications are now available for the spring session of HOA Training Academy. Sponsored by Surprise and the West Valley Homeowners Association, the six-session class meets from 6 – 9 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Feb. 7.

Topics include the role of HOAs, fundamentals of governing and managing HOAs, selecting vendors, budgeting, CC&R enforcement, code compliance and legal aspects of HOAs. Registration fee is \$20. **Info:** 623.583.0653

### COLD MEDICINES GO BEHIND THE COUNTER

If you're having trouble finding your favorite over-the-counter cold or allergy medication in Surprise, look behind the counter. In order to deter the manufacture of illegal methamphetamines, the Surprise City Council approved an ordinance in October that limits public access to over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine, norpseudoephedrine, phenylpropanolamine or ephedrine. The ordinance, an addition to the Surprise Municipal Code, went into effect Nov. 14.

The ordinance requires retail stores to keep tablet forms of pseudoephedrine in a secure location not accessible to the public; limits the amount customers can purchase; and requires customers to present picture identification and sign a written log showing the date of the transaction and amount purchased.

### RESIDENTS URGED TO JOIN A VANPOOL

With gas prices soaring and a bus route still a ways down the road, the City of Surprise is partnering with Valley Metro to encourage residents to start or join a vanpool. Residents who start a vanpool before Dec. 31 will receive one free month, excluding fuel. It works like this: Valley Metro provides the van and insurance; riders pay a monthly rental fee and share the cost of fuel; the driver usually rides free and gets 300 miles per month for personal use.

**Info:** SharetheRide.com, tryvanpoolfree.com or call 602.262.7433.

# Surprise Senior Center

623.583.0653 | 15832 N. Hollyhock St. | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays | For ages 60 and better | \$10 annual membership

## UPCOMING CLASSES & PROGRAMS:

### **PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise)**

2 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday, for four weeks.

\$20 includes 8 sessions. Call for start date and to register.

### **Tai Chi for Arthritis (or Anyone)**

11 a.m., Fridays, for six weeks.

Gentle movements allow a complete range of motion without causing aggravation to the joints. \$2 per week. Call for start dates.

### **Country Line Dancing**

9:30 a.m., Tuesdays.

Kick up your boots each week for only \$3.

### **AARP Driver's Training**

\$10 covers two 4-hour sessions.

To register 623.546.7143.

### **FITNESS CENTER**

8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. weekdays

Annual membership fee \$25

Winter only, \$15.

### **Have a hot lunch!**

Available weekdays  
for a \$2 contribution  
Call for reservations.

### **Computer Classes**

Call for class dates and times.

Basic I & II, Internet, E-Mail, Microsoft Word, File Management and New! Digital Photos. Class fee is \$10. New! Cribbage Lessons – 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Learn this classic card game. Free class.

### **Texas Hold 'Em Poker**

1 p.m., Thursdays.

If you've watched on TV and feel ready to "go all in," drop by for a friendly, fun game.

## CITY NOTEBOOK *continued from Page 13*

### **MID-DECADE CENSUS WINDS DOWN**

More than 70 percent of the 5,777 census surveys mailed to Surprise residents were completed and returned, according to statistics provided by the Maricopa Association of Governments. Surveys were mailed to about one in 13 households on Aug. 30 as part of a mid-decade random sampling. Surprise had the fourth highest return rate of the 24 jurisdictions polled in Maricopa County. Another 22 percent were undeliverable as addressed, a number which closely parallels the City's vacancy rate.

"We're very happy with those returns," said Public Information Officer Janice Tarleton. "I think it shows our residents care about their community and they're willing to do their part in helping us to get the state and federal funds we deserve." Surprise stands to gain an estimated \$8 million a year if the U.S. Census Bureau can get an accurate count. Results are expected about May 2006.

### **SIGN-UP FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT CLASSES**

The Surprise Citizen's Fire Academy is a seven-session class that provides an overview of fire department operations plus mock drill demonstrations. The class meets 6 – 9 p.m., Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – Feb. 22, at Fire Station 301. There is no cost, but class size limited to 25 students.

**Info:** 623.875.4319

Training for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) consists of three, eight-hour sessions held on Saturdays, Jan. 14 - 28. CERT volunteers are trained to provide assistance to their family and neighborhood for at least 72 hours after an emergency or disaster. There is no cost, but class size is limited to 25 students.

**Info:** 623.815.5400





*The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf is now open at 14071 W. Bell Road.*

## COMING SOON

**Offices/medical/dental:** **West Valley Orthodontics**, 15276 W. Brookside Lane; **Dental Properties**, 15033 W. Bell Road; **Mountain View Dentistry**, 18731 N. Reems Road; **Desert Valley Pediatrics**, 15264 W. Brookside Lane; **Premier Physicians**, 15021 W. Bell Road; **Smiles of Beauty**, 15033 W. Bell Road; **Surprise Chiropractic**, 13794 W. Waddell Road; **Physiotherapy Specialists**, 16920 W. Bell Road; **Mountain Terrace Dentistry**, 16936 W. Bell Road.

**Offices/other:** **Pacific Waters Investments**, 15288 W. Brookside Lane; **Coldwell Banker**, 15128 W. Bell Road; **Pay Day Loans**, 13856 W. Waddell; **Insurance Beacon.com**, 15270 W. Brookside Lane; **Landamerica Commonwealth**, 14961 W. Bell Road; **Diamond/GMAC**, 14961 W. Bell Road; **State Farm Insurance**, 13794 W. Waddell Road.

**Retail/auto:** **MCS Auto Repair and Accessories**, 13421 and 13427 Westgate; **Checker Auto Parts**, 16824 W. Bell Road and 13710 W. Waddell Road; **Econo Lube & Tune**, 15494 W. Bell Road; **Brakes Plus**, 16839 N. Reems Road.

**Retail/other:** **Henry's Market**, 15569 W. Bell Road; **Safeway & Gas Station**, 17049 W. Bell Road; **Walgreens**, 15514 W. Waddell; **Sprouts** (grocery), 13759 W. Bell Road; **Chancellor Cleaners**, 14045 W. Grand Ave; **Surprise Village Self-Storage**, 17275 N. Litchfield Road; **Alltel Sales Center**, 14071 W. Bell Road; **Renet Systems Technology**, 16846 W. Bell Road; **US Bank**, 13753 W. Bell Road; **LA Nails**, 13794 W. Waddell; **The UPS Store**, 13954 W. Waddell Road; **Supercuts**, 13954 W. Waddell Road; **Cartridge World**, 17173 N. Litchfield Road.

**Restaurant/bar:** **Coyote Alley**, 16846 W. Bell Road; **Mike's Grill**, 17191 N. Litchfield Road; **Caramba's Fresh Mexican Food**, 17239 N. Litchfield Road; **Chen Wok Gourmet Oriental**, 13856 W. Waddell Road; **Sonic**, 13926 W. Waddell Road; **Native New Yorker**, 14051 W. Grand Ave; **Chili's Bar & Grill**, 13765 W. Bell Road.

**Schools:** **Greer Ranch Elementary**, 11405 N. Greer Ranch Parkway; **Tutor Time**, 15438 W. Bell Road; **Dysart Unified School District Administrative Offices**, 15848 N. Parkview Place; **Dysart High School No. 3**, 15550 N. Parkview Place; **Prestige Dance Academy**, 16761 N. West Point Parkway.

**Misc:** **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, 14878 N. Verde Vista Drive; **Fire Station 301**, 15760 N. Village Drive; **Heard Museum West**, 14315 W. Paradise Lane; **Residence at Park Place** (condominiums), 14575 W. Mountain View Blvd; **Retreat at Westpoint** (apartments), 16671 N. Litchfield Road.

## NOW OPEN

**Retail:** **Briseno Azteca Imports**, 16225 N. Dysart Road; **Sherwin Williams Paint**, 14039 W. Grand Ave; **Sunshine Pack and Ship**, 14545 W. Grand Ave; **Great Clips**, 13794 W. Waddell; **Hampton Inn**, 14783 W. Grand Ave; **West Valley Dry Cleaners**, 17239 N. Litchfield Road.

**Adult Care:** **Always Best Care**, 18203 N. 144th Ave.; **A Paradise for Parents**, 14210 N. 138th Court; **Amazing Care Home**, 15227 W. Country Gables Drive.

**Offices/health:** **Grand Urgent Care**, 13921 W. Grand Ave; **Dr. Steven Chang**, 13954 W. Waddell Road; **Skinworks Medspa**, 18731 N. Reems Road; **Matthew DeFelice DDS**, 15276 W. Brookside Lane; **Dental Office of Perfect Teeth**, 13856 W. Waddell; **Surprise Animal Hospital**, 13954 W. Waddell.

**Offices/other:** **Ken Meade Realty**, 19509 Sunrise Blvd; **TWS Financial**, 14985 W. Bell Road; **High Profile Realty**, 14291 E. Grand Ave; **Teresa Mann CPA**, 15288 W. Brookside Lane; **OA Quick Cash**, 12851 W. Bell Road.

**Restaurants:** **Cold Stone Creamery**, 14071 W. Bell Road; **El Paso Barbeque Company**, 13823 W. Bell Road; **The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf**, 14071 W. Bell Road.

**Schools:** **Rosefield Charter School**, 12050 N. Bullard Ave; **Rancho Gabriela Elementary School**, 15272 W. Gabriela Drive; **Learning Express**, 13375 W. Grand Ave.

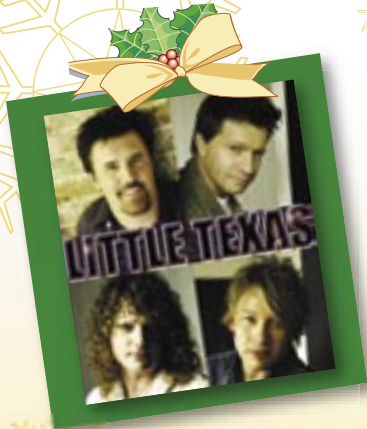
**EL PASO**  
BAR • B • QUE COMPANY  
**Presents**

**4th Annual  
SURPRISE**

**Party**

**2005**

**Featuring**



**Little  
Texas**



**Restless  
Heart**

**Saturday, December 3**  
Event Hours - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

12:45 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

2 p.m.

2:45 p.m.

4 p.m.

4:50 p.m.

6 p.m.

**Entertainment**

Mark Brooks the  
Singing Cowboy

Mike & T Band

Trick Ropsters &  
Gun Spinners

SIC Performances

Craig Davis - magician

Little Texas

SIC Performances

Restless Heart

Fireworks

**Activities**

Gingerbread  
House Contest

Santa Pictures

Party Hats

Steer Roping

Rodeo Ropers

Petting Zoo

El Paso Food Pavilion

Face Painters

Clowns

Ferris Wheel

Merry Go Round

**Admission:**

**Donation to Operation Santa Claus**

Sponsored by Sanderson Ford Lincoln Mercury  
canned food item, new unwrapped toy or child-sized clothing

**Lawn Seating:**

**Please bring your lawn chair or blanket.**

**Info:** 623.266.4500

[www.surpriseaz.com](http://www.surpriseaz.com)

Surprise Recreation Campus  
15930 N. Bullard Ave.



**Spring Training Tickets  
on sale @ 9 a.m.**

**NW Valley Chamber of Commerce Arts Festival**

**Saturday:** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Sunday:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Special Thanks**



Presented by Surprise Community and  
Recreation Services Department



*Beyond Expectations*

12425 W. Bell Road  
Surprise, AZ 85374

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